

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of the vehicle door and the pelvic airbag assembly taken along the line A-A 4-4 of Figure 3;

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A pelvic airbag assembly 40 may also be attached to the vehicle door 10. The pelvic airbag assembly 40 includes a pelvic airbag 42 that has a ~~lateral~~ length 49. The airbag assembly 40 is constructed such that the pelvic airbag 42 may be retained in the vehicle door 10 between the trim panel 38 and the inner skin 32. Such retention of the pelvic airbag 42 is preferably accomplished by constructing the pelvic airbag assembly 40 with an attachment mechanism 44 that permanently affixes and holds the pelvic airbag 42 between the trim panel 38 and the inner skin 32.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 9, line 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the attachment mechanism 44 comprises one or more mounting brackets 46. The mounting brackets 46 are attached to the back of the pelvic airbag 42. Preferably, the mounting brackets 46 are metal tabs or bars that span the ~~length~~ height of the airbag 42 and are constructed such that one or more fasteners (not shown) may engage the mounting brackets 46 and attach the pelvic airbag 42 to the inner skin 32.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 12, line 18 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As illustrated in Figure 2, the attachment mechanism 44 comprises two mounting brackets 46. The mounting brackets 46 may be metal bars or plates that are attached to the pelvic airbag 42 through the use of one or more connectors 68. Preferably, the connectors 68 are a bolt and nut assembly that engages the pelvic airbag 42 and the mounting bracket 48 46. Other types of connectors 68 such as screws, rivets, toxlocks, fasteners, and the like may also be used.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 13, line 6 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The pelvic airbag assembly 40 may further be constructed such that the reaction beam 52 bows inwardly towards ~~the pelvic airbag 42~~ from the inner skin 32. More specifically, the reaction beam 52 may be bowed inwardly such that when the pelvic airbag assembly 40 is installed, the reaction beam 52 may press it presses against the inflator housing 62, the mounting brackets 46, the folds 60, the rear panel 58, and/or the pelvic airbag assembly 40.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 15, line 1 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 4, a cross-sectional view taken along the line ~~A-A~~ 4-4 of Figure 3 illustrates in greater detail the pelvic airbag assembly 40 attached to the vehicle door 10. As can be seen in Figure 4, the pelvic airbag assembly 40 may further be constructed such that the pelvic airbag 42 includes a shell layer 88. Preferably, the shell layer 88 fits into the aperture 54 and is attached to the front panel 56 opposite the rear panel 58. The shell layer 88 is designed to cover and protect the pelvic airbag 42 as well as improve the visual aesthetics of the vehicle door 10 by preventing a vehicle occupant from viewing the front panel 56, the rear panel 58, and/or the pelvic airbag assembly 40.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 15, line 14 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 4, the inflated configuration of the airbag 42 is shown in phantom lines. As can be seen in Figure 4, the airbag assembly 40 may further be constructed such that when the airbag 42 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length 49a of the airbag 42 will decrease. Of course, other embodiments may also be made in which the airbag assembly 40 is constructed such that when the airbag 42 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length 49a of the airbag 42 remains substantially unchanged. Yet further embodiments may also be constructed such that when the airbag 42 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length 49a of the airbag 42 increases.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 17, line 13 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As with the embodiment described above, the inflated configuration of the airbag 142 is shown in phantom lines. As can be seen in Figure 5, the airbag assembly 140 may further be constructed such that when the airbag 142 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~149a~~ 149 of the airbag 142 will decrease to a length of 149a. Of course, other embodiments may also be made in which the airbag assembly 140 is constructed such that when the airbag 142 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~149a~~ 149 of the airbag 142 remains substantially unchanged. Yet further embodiments may also be constructed such that when the airbag 142 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~149a~~ 149 of the airbag 142 increases.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 20, line 6 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As with the embodiments described above, the inflated configuration of the airbag 242 is shown in phantom lines. As can be seen in Figure 6, the airbag assembly 240 may further be constructed such that when the airbag 242 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~249a~~ 249 of the airbag 242 will decrease to a length of 149a. Of course, other embodiments may also be made in which the airbag assembly 240 is constructed such that when the airbag 242 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~249a~~ 249 of the airbag 242 remains substantially unchanged. Yet further embodiments may also be constructed such that when the airbag 242 is deployed into the inflated configuration, the ~~lateral~~ length ~~249a~~ 249 of the airbag 242 increases.